

PHILIP

(5th Grader - AD/HD with 504 Plan)

Philip is a 5th grader with moderate to severe AD/HD but no learning disabilities according to the school's assessment team. He has been in multiple schools in his educational career, but has been in this school since 3rd grade. Philip scores "average" on achievement tests, though his teacher suspects he is "much brighter than that, and that if he would only apply himself, he could be at the top of his class." Philip enthusiastically starts all lessons, only to be distracted and begin playing around in the middle of seatwork. He has been sent to the office many times for "not following directions" and for "not getting any work done," although he never becomes upset or angry. Homework is sporadically completed, with varying quality from excellent to poor. Philip's peers look up to him and he is a "natural leader" the principal states. He is highly skilled at soccer, and plays on several invitation-only teams.



On group tests, Philip tends to rush to be finished, and often shows performance much lower than grade expectation, though individualized testing yields vastly different scores. When Philip reads, he becomes confused on main idea and facts. His teachers believe this is not a cognitive weakness, but rather further evidence of his "rushing" and AD/HD. He often writes, "any old thing" on worksheets, according to his teacher, because he is "lazy." The school psychologist has opined that it is not "laziness" but rather part and parcel of his AD/HD forethought and planning problems. Orally, Philip is very facile with language, and enjoys making up original rap and poems. His understanding of the last social studies unit was, "Awesome" according to the teacher. "He was able to demonstrate concepts better than me, and drew truly humbling conclusions."

Although Philip takes a slow-release attention enhancing medication, he is physically active and "jumpy" according to his teacher. Philip says the medication does help him stay focused a little bit. He receives excellent medical care and has knowledgeable and concerned parents who supervise homework as much as possible, though as a two-career family this is sometimes difficult.